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NEWS RELEASE

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Rhode Islanders: Share Your Views on Our Schools SurveyWorks! 2011 to open for all parents, teachers, administrators SurveyWorks 2010 student survey results posted on InfoWorks Live!

The Department of Education of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) will open *SurveyWorks! 2011*, the online surveys for parents, teachers, and administrators regarding public education in Rhode Island, tomorrow (March 1, 2011).

The surveys will remain open through April 15 for all to log in and enter their responses to the survey questions.

The parent survey helps educators and the public understand what parents think and believe about the education their children receive. The parent survey asks questions about school discipline and grading policies, access to school programs, and communication with teachers and principals. The survey asks parents to respond to such statements as:

- I feel welcome at this school.
- I understand my child's report card.

"The *SurveyWorks!* parent survey represents an important opportunity for parents to let us know how we can continue to accelerate our schools toward greatness and to prepare all students for success in college, careers, and life," said Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. "I encourage all parents and guardians in Rhode Island to take this opportunity to share their views on public education in our state."

The parent survey is completely anonymous and is available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish. Parents will receive complete instructions and information about access to the survey through communications from principals at each school. If they choose, parents can also fill out and submit a paper form of the survey.

The *SurveyWorks!* teacher and administrator surveys provide an important opportunity for educators to voice opinions about what is working well, what is challenging or needs to be improved, and what is necessary to help transform our schools. The surveys include questions about access to technology, communication with parents, decision-making authority, school safety, and professional-development opportunities. The teacher survey asks teachers to respond to such statements as:

- The building administration is open to my input about decisions that affect me.

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- The school has enough space for effective instruction, given the current enrollment.

The SurveyWorks! 2010 student-survey results, now posted online, provide valuable information about education from the student's point of view. For example, the survey shows that:

- 92% of elementary-school students agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement: *"My teachers care about me."*
- 87% of middle-school students agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement: *"I feel like I have a friend that I can talk to about my problems."*
- 81% of high-school students agreed or strongly agreed with the following statement: *"I feel I can talk to teachers or other staff if I'm having a problem with my classes or schoolwork."*
- 83% of high-school students indicated that some, most, or all of their teachers *"inspire me to do my best work."*
- 76% of high-school students indicated they *"send or receive text messages while at school."*

SurveyWorks! replaces the School Accountability for Learning and Teaching (SALT) Survey, though some SALT questions remain to enable RIDE to measure opinions over time. WestEd, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit agency with more than 40 years of experience in education research, administers the surveys and provides technical support. All responses are anonymous and confidential.

To see results from the *SurveyWorks!* 2010 student survey, visit InfoWorks Live!, at: <http://infoworks.ride.ri.gov/>

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